

we have human rights differences as well, and we have certainly pressed our differences with China, not only person-to-person, face-to-face with the Chinese but also in the appropriate international forum, and we will continue to do that.

And we also have other differences with them. I agreed to let President Li from Taiwan come here. I thought that was the appropriate thing to do. We won't always agree with the Chinese, but I think it's important that when we disagree, we do it in the right way, aggressively and forthrightly, but in the proper forum.

Q. President Yeltsin has called Mr. Major and Mr. Kohl complaining about the—[in-audible]—has he tried to reach you, and what would you tell him?

The President. Not yet, no. If he did, I would tell him just what I told you, that the United Nations asked for this; they certainly weren't put up to it, that the Bosnian Serbs went way beyond the bounds of acceptable conduct. There have been clear restrictions on bombing civilians and the shelling those areas for a long time now. I would ask him to call the Serbs and tell them to quit it and tell them to behave themselves and that this would not happen.

Surgeon General Nomination

Q. Are the Democrats ready to overcome a filibuster on the Foster nomination if it happens?

The President. The Democrats are not numerous enough to overcome a filibuster. But Senator Frist and Senator Jeffords put their country above their party today and did what they thought was right, and I think there will be others. There may even be some who may not think they should vote for him, Dr. Foster, who believe that it's wrong to filibuster a nomination of this kind.

In the past, when the Democrats were in the majority in the Senate, they often did that as well. They often gave Republican Presidents votes on their nominees, even if they didn't agree with them. This—it would be unusual and unwarranted if this fine man were denied his day in court in the Senate, and I don't believe the American people want that to happen, and I don't believe that

a majority of the Senate wants that to happen.

Q. What are you doing for the rest of the day?

The President. Working. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:33 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom; Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany; and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 12961— Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

May 26, 1995

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is hereby established the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (the "Committee"). The Committee shall be composed of not more than 12 members to be appointed by the President. The members of the Committee shall have expertise relevant to the functions of the Committee and shall not be full-time officials or employees of the executive branch of the Federal Government. The Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

(b) The President shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Committee.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Committee shall report to the President through the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) The Committee shall provide advice and recommendations based on its review of the following matters:

(1) *Research:* epidemiological, clinical, and other research concerning Gulf War veterans' illnesses.

(2) *Coordinating Efforts:* the activities of the Persian Gulf Veterans Coordinating Board, including the Research Coordinating

Council, the Clinical Working Group, and the Disability and Compensation Working Group.

(3) *Medical Treatment*: medical examinations and treatment in connection with Gulf War veterans' illnesses, including the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program and the Persian Gulf Registry Medical Examination Program.

(4) *Outreach*: government-sponsored outreach efforts such as hotlines and newsletters related to Gulf War veterans' illnesses.

(5) *External Reviews*: the steps taken to implement recommendations in external reviews by the Institute of Medicine's Committee to Review the Health Consequences of Service During the Persian Gulf War, the Defense Science Board Task Force on Persian Gulf War Health Effects, the National Institutes of Health Technology Assessment Workshop on the Persian Gulf Experience and Health, the Persian Gulf Expert Scientific Committee, and other bodies.

(6) *Risk Factors*: the possible risks associated with service in the Persian Gulf Conflict in general and, specifically, with prophylactic drugs and vaccines, infectious diseases, environmental chemicals, radiation and toxic substances, smoke from oil well fires, depleted uranium, physical and psychological stress, and other factors applicable to the Persian Gulf Conflict.

(7) *Chemical and Biological Weapons*: information related to reports of the possible detection of chemical or biological weapons during the Persian Gulf Conflict.

(c) It shall not be a function of the Committee to conduct scientific research. The Committee shall review information and provide advice and recommendations on the activities undertaken related to the matters described in (b) above.

(d) It shall not be a function of the Committee to provide advice or recommendations on any legal liability of the Federal Government for any claims or potential claims against the Federal Government.

(e) As used herein, "Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses" means the symptoms and illnesses reported by United States uniformed services personnel who served in the Persian Gulf Conflict.

(f) The Committee shall submit an interim report within 6 months of the first meeting of the Committee and a final report by December 31, 1996, unless otherwise provided by the President.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Committee with such information as it may require for purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) Members of the Committee shall be compensated in accordance with Federal law. Committee members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, to the extent permitted by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707).

(c) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Defense shall provide the Committee with such funds as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the Committee, except that of reporting annually to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary of Defense, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Committee shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to create any right, benefit or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 26, 1995.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:36 a.m., May 30, 1995]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 31.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 22

The President announced the nomination of Dwight P. Robinson as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Jean Kennedy Smith to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Jacques Chirac of the European Council, and President Jacques Santer of the European Commission, at a summit on June 14 in Washington, DC.

May 24

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted a tea for King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain in the Yellow Oval Room.

The President announced his intention to appoint Rose Dobrof to the Federal Council on the Aging.

The President nominated Linda L. Robertson of Washington, DC, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peggy A. Nagae to be a member of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors.

May 25

The President announced the appointment of Richard Nuccio as Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State for Cuba.

The President named Melvin E. Clark, Jr., and Charles A. Docter to the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Board of Directors.

May 26

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal funds to supplement State and local recovery efforts in communities struck by severe storms, flooding, and ground saturation due to high water tables, beginning March 1.

The President announced his intention to appoint Phyllis Middleton Jackson to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced the appointment of Joyce Lashof to be Chair and the following individuals to be members of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses: John Baldeschwieler; Arthur Caplan; Donald Custis; Frederick M. Franks, Jr.; David A. Hamburg; James A. Johnson; Marguerite Knox; Philip Landrigan; Elaine L. Larson; Rolando Rios; and Andrea Kidd Taylor.

The President announced he has selected the following individuals to serve as delegates to the White House Conference on Small Business to be held in Washington, DC, on June 11–15: Sarah Barela; John Burgess; Robert Calcaterra; Lorrie J. Carey; Mary Ann Carlson; Barbara L. Cash; Audrey L. Davis; Deborah D. Dolman; Charles J. Dorame; Sue Ling Gin; Omar M. Kader; Kathy Kemp; Nadine Mathis; Urban Miyares; Ann L. Mulholland; Kathy Neal; Harry Posey; Barbara Skelton; Edward I. Weisiger, Jr.; and Buck W. Wong.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 24

Linda Lee Robertson, of Oklahoma, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Michael B. Levy, resigned.